

REMARKS

Claims 7-12, 41, 42 and 44 are now pending in the application. Claims 13-16, 25 and 29 have been cancelled, without prejudice. Claims 1-6, 17-24, 26-28, 30-40 and 43 have been withdrawn as being directed to non-elected subject matter. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102; McWILLIAMS

Claims 7-12, 41, 42 and 44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by McWilliams (U.S. Publication No. 2004/0233521). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent Claim 7 and independent Claim 10 each recite: "an image-capturing means which is adapted to capture an image of a celestial object at a plurality of focal distances." In contrast, McWilliams does not disclose such a multi-focal image capturing means. The element in McWilliams which the rejection relates to the image-capturing means of the subject invention is "vision device 30". The vision device 30 of McWilliams, however, seems to only have a single fixed focal distance. Although a zooming function is provided by the "tube 12" of McWilliams, this tube 12 does not have an image-capturing function. Moreover, the device of McWilliams uses pattern matching based solely on the location of bright objects in the sky. Thus, McWilliams does not provide for object identification based on image quality. Accordingly, there is no motivation to modify McWilliams to provide an image-capturing means of multi-focal

length since only a single image of each object (which may be of poor focal quality) is used.

For at least the reasons discussed above, McWilliams does not disclose or suggest the image-capturing means as recited in independent claims. Since each of the remaining claims depend from either Claim 7 or 10, Applicants respectfully assert that they are likewise patentable for at least the reasons discussed above. Additionally, nowhere in McWilliams is there any suggestion regarding setting the image-capturing means sequentially at different focal distances, to improve an accuracy in alignment or introduction of the target star as recited in Claims 8 and 11. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that Claims 8 and 11 are additionally patentable for at least this reason also.

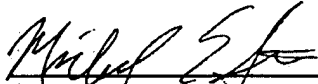
CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and

favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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